

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

NREGS-AP – Bonded labour on migration – Special strategy to rehabilitate the freed bonded labour – Orders - Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 173

Dated:01.06.2009
Read the following:-

Read:

1. Minimum Wages Act – 1948
2. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970
3. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976.
4. NREGS Act - 2005

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O R D E R:

It has come to the notice of the Government that, in Mahabubnagar district, large number of labour are being engaged to work on worksites across the country on contract basis. Quite often the labour are lured into the contract by advancing huge amounts to the labour, who have to work to repay the loans. There are instances where such labour are forced to work at wages less than the minimum wages. Understandably, the system is perpetuated by a network of middle men locally called "gumpu mestris"

2) A number of poverty alleviation programmes are being implemented by the Government which can effectively rescue labourers from the vicious cycle of poverty and indebtedness. But yet large No. of labour are still becoming victims of the exploitative practice. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has immense potential to address this challenge.

3) In order to ensure that poor labour of Mahabubnagar are not forced into bonded labour by the "gumpu mestris", Government here by direct the District Collector, Mahabubnagar to take up certain urgent measures as detailed below.

- i. An intensive campaign shall be launched in the district to bring on record all instances of labour inducted into the exploitative distress migration by the "gumpu mestris", in 2-3 weeks from now.
- ii. Steps as per the law shall be taken to free the labour from the bondage, immediately. Since group mestries and forced labour is within the definition of bonded labour, District Collector is requested to enforce Law and take stringent and deterrent criminal action against the perpetrators and release bonded labour.
- iii. The freed labour shall be given work in their own villages under NREGS, without limiting to 100 days per family. The labour shall be facilitated to earn wages from NREGS on continuous basis, so that they are not vulnerable to become bonded labour once again.

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iv. The women of the freed labour families who are still outside the fold of SHGs shall be organized into SHGs and given access to credit under Pavalavaddi program.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

K.RAJU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (RD)

To
The Commissioner, Rural Development, AP, Hyderabad.
The Commissioner, Social Welfare, AP, Hyderabad.
The Chief Executive Officer, SERP, AP, Hyderabad.
The District Collector and District Programme Coordinator, Mahabubnagar district.
The Project Director, DWMA and Additional District Programme Coordinators of Mahabubnagar District.
The Commissioner, Panchayat Raj, AP., Hyderabad.
The Director, Tribal Welfare, AP, Hyderabad.
The Commissioner, AMR-APARD, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

The P.S. to Minister (Rural Development),
The P.S. to Prl.Secy. to Government (RD),
The P.S to Secy. to Government (Panchayat Raj),
The PR & RD (Genl.) Department (2 copies),
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER